

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Transportation Cabinet to include Keith  
2 Whitley on the Country Music Highway on United States Route 23 along the Lawrence  
3 County border.

4 WHEREAS, Jesse Keith Whitley was born July 1, 1955 in Ashland, Kentucky, to  
5 Elmer and Faye Whitley, and he was raised in Sandy Hook, Kentucky; and

6 WHEREAS, Keith Whitley learned to play the guitar at the age of six, he appeared  
7 on Buddy Starcher's regional television show at the age of eight, and when he was 15  
8 years old, he formed a bluegrass band with his friend Ricky Skaggs; and

9 WHEREAS, Keith Whitley and Ricky Skaggs were discovered by country music  
10 legend Ralph Stanley, who walked in the door of a club and thought the Stanley Brothers  
11 were playing on the jukebox, only to discover Whitley and Skaggs singing live. Ralph  
12 Stanley asked them to join his band, and Whitley became the lead singer for Stanley in  
13 1974; and

14 WHEREAS, Keith Whitley played with J.D. Crowe & the New South in the mid-  
15 1970s and quickly became one of the most versatile and talented lead singers in bluegrass  
16 music. He moved to Nashville in 1983 and later signed a recording contract with RCA  
17 Records; and

18 WHEREAS, Keith Whitley released his first solo album, *A Hard Act to Follow*, in  
19 1984. However, it was his second release, *L.A. to Miami*, in 1985 that would give him his  
20 first Top 20 country hit single, "Miami, My Amy," followed by three more hit songs:  
21 "Ten Feet Away," "Homecoming 63," and "Hard Livin"; and

22 WHEREAS, during the promotional tour for his second album, Keith Whitley met  
23 country music singer Lorrie Morgan, and the pair were later married in November of  
24 1986. Together they had one son, Jesse Keith Whitley, and Whitley adopted Lorrie's  
25 daughter from a previous marriage; and

26 WHEREAS, during the recording session for a new album in 1987, Keith Whitley  
27 approached RCA and asked if he could shelve the 15-song project and be given more

1 creative control. RCA agreed, and Whitley's album, *Don't Close Your Eyes*, was released  
2 in 1988. The first three singles from the album, "When You Say Nothing At All," "I'm No  
3 Stranger to the Rain," and the title track "Don't Close Your Eyes," all reached number one  
4 on the Billboard Magazine Country Music chart during the fall of 1988 and the winter of  
5 1989. Keith Whitley earned his first and only Country Music Association award as a solo  
6 artist in 1989 when "I'm No Stranger to the Rain" was named Single of the Year. Whitley  
7 also earned a Grammy nomination for Best Country Vocal Performance, male; and

8 WHEREAS, on May 9, 1989, Keith Whitley suddenly traversed these earthly  
9 bounds; and

10 WHEREAS, three months after his death, Keith Whitley's final studio album, *I*  
11 *Wonder Do You Think of Me*, was released, garnering Whitley two more Number 1 hits  
12 with the title track and "It Ain't Nothin";

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall honor the accomplishments of  
16 Keith Whitley by including him on the Country Music Highway on United States Route  
17 23 in Lawrence County, and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution,  
18 erect appropriate signs denoting this designation.